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by Mr. Henry G. Granger in our issue of last week that a great task, which no living man could attempt so hopefully, be undertaken by Mr. Roosevelt. It is one that need interfere with no other energy or engagement of his, but which might yet be the grandest monument of his energetic history.

"To Mr. Roosevelt while President of the United States was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his labors as intermediary in the negotiations between Russia and Japan. That successful achievement would pale before such an achievement as Mr. Granger believes would be possible. He would have the United States ask Great Britain, France, Germany and Japan to join with it in compelling and ensuring the peace of the world through the Hague Conference. As the chief commissioner, assigned to the task of securing such an agreement of the five nations,—the five strongest nations in the world,—he would have Mr. Roosevelt named. His best energy and his immense prestige would find in this effort the noblest object to be achieved for civilization."

Mr. Granger's proposition is as follows: *

"The dream of an international congress, which now has its beginnings in the Hague Conventions, can be made real, present and effective. America, England, France, Germany and Japan agreed to it, and the others *must*. This world reforming consolidation can be effected. America and any two ensure the other two and thus the rest follow. Roosevelt has not only the time, the money and the inclination to do what he believes right, but in this case he has the energy, the prestige and the ability.

"If Roosevelt will tackle the proposition he can accomplish a greater feat than any other man ever had the opportunity to undertake, and the like of which, if he does it, no other man can ever have again.

"With the knowledge that Theodore Roosevelt is willing to dedicate himself to this, the greatest work of the ages, it would not appear difficult for President Taft to bring about, with the governments of the other leading powers mentioned, a conference of delegates. This conference would draw up a basis of international constitutional government to cover the questions of boundaries, arbitration, sanitation and police. The central government would control the navies of the world, except such vessels as are needed for customs coast guards in each country, and have entire direction of the forces of the nations, both naval and military, for world police service. Eternal peace would thus be assured, and in the midst of uninterrupted and unintermittable prosperity, the development of commerce, shipping and all the vast natural resources that invite brains and energy to become great factors in civilization, the gruesome era of wars would become but a memory."

New Books.

THE WAR IN THE AIR. By H. G. Wells. New York: The Macmillan Company. Illustrations by Eric Pape. 395 pages. Price, \$1.50.

This book, published some months ago, has come to be too well known to need commendation. It is an effort to forecast what war in the air is likely to be if

*The publication of Mr. Granger's proposition in the Notes of the work of the Peace Society of the City of New York must not be taken as indicating the approval by THE ADVOCATE OF PEACE of all the features of the proposition.—Ed.

airships ever reach a state of development which will make it possible to use them as means of offense and defense. To serve as the thread of the story narrative, if we may call him a "thread," the author has invented a curious sort of character named Bert Smallways, "a vulgar little creature," full of prying curiosity. Bert gets into difficulties trying to start a business. A balloon with which he is meddling runs away, or rather flies away, with him, and he goes through all sorts of perils and escapes, in Germany among the Drachenflieger, as the German airships are called, and afterwards in the war between the United States and Germany and finally in the war of the world.

The first part of the story is rather commonplace and wearisome, but the latter part is strong and impressive, the events being worked out with a powerful imagination and a vigorous hand. The upshot of it is "the world at war," in which the hordes of the Far East swoop down upon the West with innumerable airships, and there is a great collapse of civilization. "European civilization was blown up."

Mr. Wells has clearly drawn his materials from existing conditions of international society, in which a mad race for superiority in armaments, on land, on the sea, and now in the air, is the most patent if not the most controlling feature. No one can help asking, under these conditions, what is to become of the world. We cannot believe the outcome is to be anything so tragic and hopelessly disastrous as Mr. Wells in this story seems to prophesy, but the base and insane elements of our international society must be gotten rid of, if we are not to awaken some morning and find ruin on a vast scale staring us in the face.

"The War in the Air" is an excellent book to compel men to think clearly and soberly on the crisis through which the nations are passing.

BENEATH BOW BELLS. Addresses on International Peace delivered at Bow Church, Cheapside, London, E. C. By W. Evans Darby, B. D., LL. D., Secretary of the Peace Society. London: Headley Brothers. 126 pages.

These addresses are substantially the same as were given by Dr. Darby during the week of the London Peace Congress in 1908. Departing from the usual point of view of treating the peace movement,—that of international law and diplomacy, of the proceedings of the Hague Conferences and of the propaganda of peace societies,—he goes down into the religious ethical foundations which underlie the movement and which are of even greater significance in preparing the way for peace than the external forces which are to-day so much in evidence. Dr. Darby's work is an explanation and application of the principles of Christianity to peace. It is based on the historic Christ, whose incarnation, crucifixion and resurrection, whose teachings of meekness and equality, of fraternity and service, whose personality, in a word, has through the Christian centuries been quietly, but continuously and surely, working for the objects of the great cause. The author strengthens the forcible presentation of his thought which comes from his naturally vigorous expression by a free use of quotations from the leading preachers and religious writers of the day. An excellent portrait of him faces the title page of his attractive little book.